



EDWARD T. SCHAFER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

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October 4, 2000

The Honorable Gary Doer
Premier of Manitoba
Room 204, Legislative Building
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Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	10/4/00	# of pages	8
To	DAVE SPEY	From	BOB HARMS		
Co./Dept	SWC	Co.	GOV. OFFICE		
Phone #	8-4940	Phone #	8-2200		
Fax #	8-3691	Fax #	8-2205		

Dear Premier Doer:

This letter poses a formal invitation to the Province of Manitoba to participate as a partner in North Dakota's environmental review of the Devils Lake Temporary Emergency Outlet Project. Our proposed project is located along the Twin Lakes route in Benson and Eddy Counties in North Dakota. When completed it will move floodwater from Devils Lake to the Sheyenne River according to a carefully planned operating methodology.

As you are aware, Congress recently authorized and funded the US Army Corps of Engineers to conduct environmental and design studies necessary to construct a federal flood control emergency outlet along the Peterson Coulee route in the counties mentioned above. Unfortunately, this project is at least two-years from being able to move floodwater. North Dakota's intent is to construct a temporary, state-funded project as an interim step to the federal project operation. The flood crisis at Devils Lake remains very urgent as demonstrated by the fact that the basin area contributing to Devils Lake is fully saturated. We are fearful that several tens of millions of dollars of new damages may result next year if water is not removed from Devils Lake as soon as possible.

I recognize that you have concerns and interests in our proposed project. Consequently, I am initiating a unique, state environmental review process. This process goes well beyond legal requirements for the project as it is envisioned. We believe your representative on the Study Review Committee is important, as he will provide insights from the Manitoba perspective. That person will also provide a channel for information about the project to flow to your office. In addition to your representative, the State of Minnesota and Spirit Lake Nation have been similarly invited to participate.

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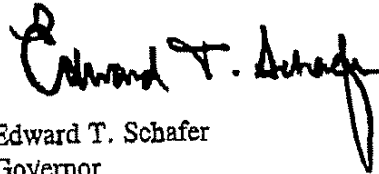
Other committee members involved in the study effort will include North Dakota State agencies responsible for water and natural resources. They include: the State Engineer/State Water Commission, the Department of Health, the Game and Fish Department, the State Forest Service, and the Parks and Recreation Department. The State Engineer will lead the study effort.

As I've stressed in our previous discussions, the need for an emergency outlet from Devils Lake is dire. I am confident that your involvement in this process will alleviate misinformation and any concerns that you may have had regarding the project.

Please contact me if you have questions concerning this initiative. Technical process questions can be directed to David Sprynczynatyk, State Engineer. If you have any questions, please call him at (701) 328-4940.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Edward T. Schafer
Governor

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Enclosure

cc: Jesse Ventura, Governor of Minnesota